

A Litany for the Coronavirus

God of all creation, God of a thousand names and faces, divine source of health and wholeness, whose compassion embraces the entire community of earth: behold your fearful people all over the world as we confront the coronavirus. With the words of the psalmist, we pray for all who may be affected by the virus:

¹ Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD;

² Lord, hear my voice.

Let your ears be attentive

to my cry for mercy. (Psalm 130:1-2)

For all health caregivers – nurses, physicians, aides, EMTs, paramedics, technicians and therapists; out of the depths, O God—
We cry out to you.

For hospital and nursing home medical staff, assistants, and housekeepers who have close contact with patients and for the patients themselves; out of the depths, O God—
We cry out to you.

For all who travel for their daily work over land and sea and through the air: flight attendants, pilots, ship captains and sailors, bus drivers, passengers and long-distance truck drivers; out of the depths, O God—
We cry out to you.

For all who handle money—bankers, supermarket, village market and convenience store cashiers; out of the depths, O God—
We cry out to you.

For all who pump gas and serve customers at Interstate rest areas; out of the depths, O God—
We cry out to you.

For restaurant workers, coffee shop baristas, cooks, servers, chefs, and dishwashers; out of the depths, O God—
We cry out to you.

For hospitality workers, hotel receptionists and reservationists, servers and housekeepers; out of the depths, O God—
We cry out to you.

For daycare center staff who cuddle and comfort children and for all children; out of the depths, O God—
We cry out to you.

For teachers and professors, coaches and cafeteria workers at schools and universities across the world and students everywhere; out of the depths, O God—

We cry out to you.

For the homeless huddling for warmth over steam grates and under urban bridges; out of the depths, O God—

We cry to you.

For the poor, the lonely, the vulnerable, the isolated elderly, and those with preexisting medical conditions; out of the depths, O God—

We cry out to you.

For clergy who remain faithful to their calling to distribute the mysteries of God in Word and Sacrament for the forgiveness of sins and the strengthening of faith; out of the depths—

We cry out to you.

For all who have tested positive for COVID-19, for all who are waiting for test results, and all who are quarantined; out of the depths—

We cry out to you.

For all who have already died of the coronavirus, now free from pain and suffering. May the God of hope, comfort their families and friends; out of the depths—

We cry out to you.

Loving God, protect all for whom we have prayed; hasten the day when the virus will have run its course; quicken scientists to develop medications and vaccines; call out the best instincts of your people: love, neighborliness, compassion, and a sense of caring for every member of your beloved family on earth. Out of the depths, we cry out to you, O God of hope, in the name of Jesus.

Amen.

(Adapted from "A Litany for the Coronavirus" by Anne and Jeffrey Rowthorn of the Collegeville Institute, Collegeville MN.)